Notes of discussion with the Hon'ble the Resident

on the 21st April 1919.

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Mr.Cobb was informed that the person that came from Bombay and attempted to secure local support for the closing of the shops in the City, was living in the Cantonment limits and had to be watched by their people. He enquired if I was going to take any action with reference to the National School and if it was an aided institution. I said that the School was under a provisional recognition and there was no case at present to take any action; but the Inspector General of Education will be requested confidentially to watch further developments. I added that so far as our information went, there was nothing particular to note and besides watching events carefully, nothing further need be done. It was agreed that the District Superintendent of Police, Cantonment, and the District Police Superintendent of the City might informally meet and exchange information, as often as convenient.

Mr.Cobb then brought again to my notice the objectionable tone of some of the articles of Sampadabhyudaya in March and April, which he said, were pro-German and anti-British. I said that Mr.Venkatakrishnaiya had already been given a hint not to dabble in Imperial politics in the style referred to.

Mr.Cobb then referred me to a conversation he had with Sir M.Visvesvaraya on the 16th March 1917 regarding the purchase of electric machinery by our Government and reading from the correspondence, pointed out that the late Dewan had promised "to issue such instructions as the circumstances may demand to secure tenders from British Manufacturers". Mr.Cobb desired to know if anything had been done and said that the Government of India had again raised the question and asked that Mysore may give British manu-

facturers

manufacturers a fair and equal chance of tendering. I replied that I had no information but would look up to see what action was taken in 1917. Probably, British manufacturers were not then able to take any orders and even now, the General Electrical Company with whom Mr.Forbes has been dealing probably quotes below any British firm and are specially competent to supply our requirements. I also said we had appointed agents in London who could get quotations from British manufacturers and there was no objection to place orders with them provided time of delivery and rates were favourable; but I said I would make enquiries - which would probably show that the General Electrical Company were the most advantageous firm to deal with. I am asking the Electrical Department to put up a confidential note which will be submitted when received.

I then brought to Mr.Cobb's notice the inadequate allotments of Burma rice made during the past three months to Mysore, cutting down our application by 50 per cent and asked his support in pressing on the Government of India the absolute necessity of giving at least 5 to 6 thousand tons during May and June which will be the most critical months. I pointed out that the supply of Burma rice at a cheaper rate to the poor people has saved the situation, has brought down the price of ragi a n d brought forth hoarded stocks of ragi into the market, enabing us thereby to fulfil our obligations to adjacent British districts, viz., Nilgiris, Wynaad, etc., that should the situation ease later on, the requirements will be considerably reduced and that therefore, it is essential that the May and June allotments should be liberal. Mr.Cobb asked me to write to him a demi-official letter on these lines and he promised to send it on with his strong support.

I then brought to Mr.Cobb's notice, the C & M Station water-supply question and said that the revised agreement which was agreed to by the Resident is still pending ratification by the Government of India (nearly 1½ years); and such being the case, the C & M Station authorities have proposed a new scheme involving additional supply and other changes in the agreement and asked for the Durbar's consent. I pointed out that we cannot be expected to commit ourselves

to any such scheme, in fact, the whole question requires careful examination and I am preparing a note on the subject. Further, at the recent Conference of the officers of both the Governments at the Residency, no mention was made of this scheme but an ~~important~~ improvement scheme (Jewell Filter) only was agreed to; and hence ~~and was~~ it surprising that when matters stand thus, Mysore Government was asked to agree to arrangements not consistent with the agreement binding both parties. Our City ~~xxxx~~ requirements were on the increase and it would be obviously impossible to increase the minimum limit fixed in the present agreement; and before any such scheme as now communicated, can be considered on merits, the limitations already determined upon should be respected. Mr.Cobb did not seem to understand the case and thought that this scheme was discussed at the Conference. I said that my recollection is that it was not. I thereupon, told Mr.Cobb that we are replying to the Residency communication as above and I hoped that he would understand the difficulties. I may mention here, that our Public Works Department very nearly committed themselves to this scheme and when the draft letter came for approval initialled by the Second Member, I scored it out and referred the Secretary to the agreement and asked him to put up a negative reply. These papers are being officially submitted.

As regards growth of military interests in Bangalore, I had ~~personally~~ privately heard from General Cross-Barratt that he had sent up his scheme last February and so personally reminded Mr.Cobb for a reply. He said that he was actively engaged in discussing details and will soon be able to communicate with me on the subject.

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22.4'18.